From the Commander’s Log
By Commander Bill Stewart

*** IMPORTANT NOTICE ***
THIS IS THE FINAL MASTHEAD MAILING!!!

This is the last Masthead that will be mailed to our membership-at-large. Our e-mailed February issue reached 500 of our 677 members who also received the mailed copy. Four of our members who do not have e-mail requested that they continue to receive a mailed copy. This is certainly a number we can accommodate. There are approximately 100 members that we do not have an e-mail address for and 60 members whose emails were returned undeliverable.

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Upcoming Events...

Monday, March 21, 2011 - Cruising the Broughton Archipelago - an illustrated presentation by Robert Buller

Robert is an entertaining speaker and this is bound to be a fascinating talk.

Saturday, March 26, 2011 - Bilgewater Bash at the RVYC (see details on page 5)

DJ music, dancing, and great food in a superb facility - the Bilgewater Bash is a great evening of fun and a chance to mingle with other squadron members.

Monday, April 18, 2011 - Coastal Kaleidoscope - World Ship Society

A selection of WSS members’ photos and stories of some of the more interesting government, ferry, and commercial vessels encountered along B.C.’s coast. Included are photos and brief histories of the evolution of the main coastal towboating and shiphandling companies.

Squadron Night meetings are held at the False Creek Yacht Club located at the north shore of False Creek, right under the Granville Street Bridge. Doors open at 7:00 pm...Event begins at 7:30 pm...Cost is $5 per person See you there!
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You should have already received an e-mail copy of this March Masthead. If not, please go on to the national website at www.cps-ecp.ca and update your e-mail address. The procedure to do that was outlined in our February Masthead on page 3. The February Masthead is still available online at http://vpsBoat.com/masthead-feb-11.pdf.

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to membership@vpsBoat.com from your current e-mail address and we will update your e-mail address on the National website.

If the e-mail address listed on the National website is correct, but you did not receive your March Masthead, then something is wrong. Please let us know by sending an e-mail to support@vpsBoat.com or by calling Twyla Graeme at 604-738-8563. If you do not have an e-mail address, please contact Twyla to continue to have a copy of the Masthead mailed to you.

I wish to thank our membership for their support in this matter, and particularly to my bridge members who have spent a considerable amount of time planning for and implementing the electronic version of the Masthead to be sent to our membership via e-mail.

The result of this change will be a very significant cost savings for Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron.

SQUADRON NIGHTS AT THE FALSE CREEK YACHT CLUB

On Monday February 21st, we had Harold Gordon make a presentation to our membership—Marine Electronics, NMEA 2000 - The New Standard - What is it?

Harold’s presentation was very interesting, informative, and well presented. It also brought out to our monthly membership meeting a number of new faces we had not seen before. Many questions were asked and a good discussion was had all round.

Coming up on March 21st, Robert Buller, one of our boating course instructors, will present Cruising the Broughton Archipelago. Robert and Karen Lubin (past squadron training officer) have had many years of cruising experience along the British Columbia coastline. This will be a cruising presentation not to be missed!

On April 18th, we have Ray Warren of the World Ship Society who will present a coastal kaleidoscope of the commercial vessels and towboats that travel along the B.C. coast.

And on May 16th, the AGM and Change of Watch will take place at the False Creek Yacht Club. Please attend and help me welcome your new bridge members.

Please come out and support our monthly squadron night events.  

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THE BILGEWATER BASH

Upcoming on March 26th is our squadron’s biggest social event of the year, “The Bilgewater Bash.” Our annual dinner and dance with door prizes is held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club at their Jericho Clubhouse. Tickets are still available for $75.00 per person, and purchases can be made through our squadron event coordinator, Ruth Cuddeford. Ruth can be reached at 604-294-5310 from 08:30-17:00 hrs, Monday to Friday.

THE STUDENT CRUISE

Our training department has organized “The Student Cruise” for our boating students. This event will be held on Saturday, March 5th. This is a voluntary outing and is always a highlight for our students who enjoy being out on the water practicing plotting and fixes and taking bearings. More to report on the cruise next month.

SQUADRON CRUISES

Planning is underway by your Cruise Master, Lois MacDonald, for several squadron cruises. Possible destinations could include Bowen Island, Keats Island, and raft-ups in False Creek. The cruises are always great fun with good times and lots of opportunity to share cruising experiences. Watch for specific details in upcoming Mastheads.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming various squadron events.

Bill Stewart

VPS at the Boat Show

Vancouver International Boat Show was held for the first time at Vancouver’s Convention Center (West) and everyone seemed to enjoy seeing the new center on the waterfront. Since the Boat Show did not happen last year because of the 2010 Olympics, it was nice to make contact with all the marina community again. The CPS booth was co-ordinated by our Pacific Mainland District. The VPS members volunteering were Dave Atchison, Eardley Beaton, Bill Blancard, Paul Heeney and Nancy Deshaw.

Eardley Beaton, PRO
Help Save Your Own Life

by Catharin Vanderpant

There’s another sea-going group of volunteers who are also doing great work to keep boating a safe and survivable pastime. The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary - Pacific Region serves us year round, up and down our spectacular coast. And it’s not just boating. If you enjoy hiking, water sports, travel by ferry or plane, or live on an island, you could require the Coast Guard Auxiliary’s emergency services.

The CCGA participates in resolving nearly one third of the SAR incidents that occur on the BC coast, either as the principal resource, or as an additional response vessel. Every eight hours one of their fifty stations receives an emergency call. Their volunteers respond to every call knowing that a life could be at stake. They drop whatever they’re doing and rush to help people they’ve never met.

In the past 12 months, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary - Pacific Region assisted over 800 people, saved 245 lives and salvaged property valued at approximately $70 million.

Oddly, the volunteers of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary - Pacific Region must rely on donations to provide these vital services. Unlike our squadrons, there’s no membership dues or class fees to support the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Their crews need properly equipped boats and clothing to keep themselves safe while they search for and rescue others. They need specialized items like basket stretchers for transporting the injured and Marine SAR-certified helmets for each active crew member. Then there’s radar and radio equipment for efficiently locating those in distress. We all know how very expensive marine gear is, not to mention the cost of fuel. It’s our donations that help keep fully equipped rescuers nearby.

If you would like to help meet the expenses of this fine volunteer group, please call 1.800.665.4757 or send a cheque to Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary - Pacific, 25 Huron Street, Victoria, BC V8V 4V9 or you can donate online by visiting [www.ccga-pacific.org](http://www.ccga-pacific.org) where you can also learn more about the organization.

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary - Pacific Region is a Registered Charity No. 10686 3137 RR.
Bilgewater Bash

It's On!

The Event: The Annual Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron's Bilgewater Bash

The Date: Saturday March 26, 2011

The Place: The Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
3811 Point Grey Road, Vancouver

The Times:
Doors open: 17:45hrs
Bilgewater at: 18:00hrs
Famous RVYC Buffet dinner at: 19:00hrs
Doors close at: 24:00hrs

After the Buffet: Door Prizes and Dancing to the DJ

Ticket Prices: $75/person

To order your tickets: please call Ruth Cuddeford at 604-294-5310
(Monday-Friday 08:30hrs—17:00hrs)

Don’t be disappointed - Tickets on sale only until March 17th.

A Donation: If you are able to provide a door prize, please contact P/C Dave Atchison at 604-263-7883